Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

fertilized them, the case of *Cucurbita ovifera* would have been complete, and in Wistaria how easy to take pollen from some mature flowers and impregnate the younger ones. It is tantalizing to be put off with "incontrovertible" inferences and suggestions, when the material for actual proof was so near at hand.—T. MEEHAN.

COLORADO POTATO BEETLE DESTROYED BY THE ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK.—I noticed last summer that great numbers of the Colorado potato beetle were destroyed by the Rose-breasted grosbeak, *Goniaphea Ludoviciana.*

The farmers hold these birds in great favor, and are very careful to prevent their destruction. They were so abundant in this region last summer as to hold in check the vast army of these ravagers of the potato crop.—W. F. BUNDY, *Jefferson, Wis., Feb.* 25, 1875.

THE UMBELLULA.—A monograph of the genus has just been received from Mr. Lindahl, published in the Swedish Transactions. These polypes are sea pens, with a remarkably long stalk, attaining the length of two or three feet. The species are of great rarity, occurring at great depths off Spitzsbergen, Baffin's Bay, North Greenland, and off Cape Finisterre. A second genus, Crinillum, occurred in Banka Sea.

CIGARS DESTROYED BY INSECTS.—The disciples of Mr. Trask will be glad to know that "the weed" is devoured by three kinds of insects, and thus rendered unfit for the use of man. In a collection found by a friend in a lot of cigars, which they had ruined, Dr. Horn enumerates three beetles: *Catorama simplex, Xyloteres?* and *Calandra oryzæ.*

GEOLOGY AND PALEONTOLOGY.

THE SAND DUNES OF THE SAN LUIS VALLEY.—On our homeward march while in the service of the U. S. Geological Survey (Dr. F. V. Hayden's) during the summer of 1874, we passed close to the well-known "sandhills" of the San Luis Valley lying at the base of the Sangre de Christo Range opposite Musca Pass. They consist of a range of angular dunes extending in horse-shoe form for some ten miles, the central points of which will average over seven hundred feet in height, making a very prominent object against the dark back-ground afforded by the Sierras Sangre de Christo and Belanca. Outside of this range of sandhills along their whole extent stretches a perfect *arena* (literally), into the eastern end of which a river of considerable size rushes down, and is utterly lost in five hundred yards, reappearing again, much diminished, several miles below. This floor of sand and the square sides of the dunes to the very top has been ruffled by the wind into small irregular furrows identically the same as the ripple-marks made by the water on a sandy beach. But while the body of this pure fine sand is hammered as compact as that under the waves, the surface is a little softer, so as to readily receive and preserve in ordinarily still weather such delicate marks as the tracks of spiders and small lizards. I noticed also that portions of this ripple-marked floor which had not been recently disturbed, was of a slightly different color from newly exposed sand. It struck me at the time, that sand might easily be blown over this smooth surface without disturbing it, and should it lie there long enough to become rock, this first surface would form a natural line of separation between the strata, having every appearance of an old ripple-marked beach perhaps containing impressions and delicate fossils, when in fact no water had been near it, and the wind alone was accountable for the whole.—ERNEST INGERSOLL.

MICROSCOPY.

DOUBLE STAINING OF WOOD AND OTHER VEGETABLE SECTIONS. —I have lately discovered that benzole fixes the anilines when they are used in staining vegetable and animal tissues. It not only instantly fixes any aniline color in vegetable tissues, but also renders them as transparent as oil of cloves.

Finding that benzole possessed this property, led me to try double staining upon sections of leaves and sections of wood. The results have proved highly satisfactory. I have found the following processes successful:—A section, say of wood, being prepared for dyeing, is put for five or ten minutes in an alcoholic solution of "Roseine Pure" (Magenta), one-eighth or one-quarter of a grain to the ounce. From this it is removed to a solution of "Nicholson's Soluble Blue Pure," one half-grain to the ounce of alcohol, acidulated with one drop of nitric acid. In this it should